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# Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 TRSE-00
AID-05 EAE-00 /050 W
----------231205Z 004142 /40
P R 231001Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE 2407

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USIA FOR IEA, PS, IBS, IOR/RIM, IOP/M
USIA ALSO PASS PRIORITY USINFO

E.O. 11652: NA
TUSJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION - THAI GOVERNMENT

EDITORIAL MAY 22 IN THE WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE CONSERVATIVE, PRESTIGIOUS AFTERNOON DAILY SIAM RATH, OWNED BY FORMER PM KUKRIT PRAMOJ, NOTES PRESIDENT CARTER'S LONDON COMMENTS ABOUT HOW TO PREVENT COUTRIES FROM GOIN COMMUNIST AND USES THE REMARKS TO MAKE A THINLY-VEILED ATTACK ON THE THAI GOVERNMENT. EDIT QUOTES CARTER AS SAYING THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CREAT CONFIDENCE AMONG THEIR PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE DOING A GOOD JOB, ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO NEEDECD CHANGE, PROMPTLY RESPOND TO THE WHISHES AND NEED OF THEIR PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, EDIT CONTINUES, "MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT MUST BE EFFICIENT AND HONEST BEYOND SUSPICION."
NOT ONLY THE LONDON SUMIT MEMBERS HOULD HEED THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS, EDIT WARMS, BUT ALL COUNTRIES, "INCLUDING THOSE WHICH ARE CONCENTRATING ON DEVELOPING A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT -- COUNTRIES FACED WITH A COMMUNIST MENACE AND THREAT."
EDIT DIVIDES GOVERNMENTS INFO TWO CATEGORIES: TURE DEMOCRACIES AND COUNTRIES WHERE THE "GOVERNMENT IS COMPLETELY
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CONTROLLED BY A GROUP OF PERSONS... WHO USE FORCE AND WHO DRAFT AND DETRMINE VARIOUS POLICIES WHICH THEY FEEL WILL PRODUCE GOOD RESULTS." SIMULTANEOUSLY, "SOME FRIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF THE PEOPLE ARE RESTRICTED... TO PREVENT THEM FRO HAVING ANY IMPACT ON THE POWER OR STABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT."
EDIT SAYS SUCH GOVERNMENTS CLAIM THAT RESTRICTIVE MEASURE ARE NEEDED BECAUSE OF VARIOUS INTERNAL PROBLEMS,

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INCLUDING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNIST THREATS, BUT, EDIT NOTES, SEVERAL SUCH COUNTRIES WERE DEFEATED "BY THE COMMUNISTS IN THE END,"
MOST GOVERNMENTS THAT POSSESS ABSOLUTE POWER ARE NOT READY TO PERMIT ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY CHANGE TO BE MADE LATER, WHEN NECESSARY. WHAT SHOULD BE BORNE UPPERMOST IN MIND IS THAT WHEN PERSONS POSSESS TOTAL POWER OF ADMINISTRATION OF A COUNTRY, THAT TOTAL POWER IS APT TO CONFLICT WITH HONESTY IN MOST CASES."
COMMENT: THIS IS THE MOST DIRECT (THOUGH THINGLY VIELED) ATTACK ON THE PRESENT THAI GOVERNMENT IN RECENT MONTHS, DIRECT ATTACKS HAVE RESULTED IN MORE THAN ONE NEWSPAPER BEING CLOSED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY -- INCLUDING SIAM RATH. IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT HAPPEN IN THIS CASE.
MCGINLEY.

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NNN

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# Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**
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